

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended): A method comprising:  
displaying at least two processing relationship object representations on a display screen in data communication with a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system comprising a database;  
selecting at least two processing relationship object representations from the displayed processing relationship object representations;  
preparing a processing relationship definition for each of the selected processing relationship object representations, wherein preparing the processing relationship definitions ~~comprises~~includes:  
creating a highest level processing relationship object in a processing relationship structure, wherein the highest level processing relationship object represents an FSO; ~~and~~  
creating a plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure, wherein the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure are descendents of the highest level processing relationship object;  
~~processing wherein~~ at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects, one of the lower level processing relationship objects ~~representing a company of the FSO, a business unit of the FSO, a bank branch office, a regional bank, a credit card issuer, or an~~

acquirer;  
processing the relationship definitions;  
and  
storing each processing relationship definition in the database.

2. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein each processing relationship definition stored in the database is configured for use in preparing a processing relationship value from a Financial Services Organization (FSO) transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.
3. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the processing relationship value is configured for use in identifying an FSO business entity as an owner of the FSO transaction-related data.
4. (Currently amended): The method of claim 23, wherein the processing relationship value is configured for use in identifying an FSO business entity as an owner of the FSO transaction-related data, wherein the FSO business entity is ~~a company or a business unit or a bank branch office or a regional bank or a credit card line or an issuer or an acquirer.~~
5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting one or more processing relationship object representations is performed by a user of the FSO computer system.
6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting one or more processing relationship object representations is programmable or executable by an expert system.
7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the storing the processing relationship definition in the database comprises transferring the processing relationship definition to a report record definition stored in the database.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended): The method of claim 18, wherein the processing relationship structure is expanded by inserting one or more processing relationship objects as descendants of the highest level processing relationship object.

10. (Currently amended): The method of claim 18, wherein the processing relationship structure is edited by inserting or deleting one or more processing relationship objects.

11. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying one or more processing relationship object representations on a display screen comprises displaying values associated with a sequence number for at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects and a level number for the at least one lower level processing relationship object, wherein the level number identifies a level in the processing relationship structure.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying one or more processing relationship object representations on a display screen comprises displaying values associated with an object name, an object description and an object number for a displayed processing relationship object.

14. (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the object name identifies a unique name assigned to an object.

15. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the database is relational or object oriented.

16. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting a first processing relationship object representation from one or more processing relationship object representations comprises positioning a cursor of an user input device above the first processing relationship object representation and clicking a button of the user input device.

17. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the preparing a processing relationship definition comprises creating or editing an object associated with each of the selected processing relationship object representations.

18. (Currently amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the creating the object comprises ~~identifying a unique object identifier and identifying~~ one or more values for the object and one or more properties.

19. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the preparing a processing relationship definition comprises identifying ~~one or more methods and~~ one or more properties of an object associated with each of the selected processing relationship object representations.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the processing relationship object representations comprises an icon displayed on the display screen of the FSO computer system.

22. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein a user of the FSO computer system executes a processing relationship configuration program to prepare the processing relationship definition.

23. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the user of FSO computer system executes a processing relationship configuration program to reconfigure and store in the database the processing relationship definition in response to changing business conditions.

24. (Currently amended): A system for processing FSO transactions, the system comprising:

a computer program;

a computer system;

wherein the computer program is executable on the computer system to execute:

displaying at least two processing relationship object representations on a display screen in data communication with a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system comprising a database;

selecting at least two processing relationship object representations from the displayed processing relationship object representations;

preparing a processing relationship definition for each of the selected processing relationship object representations, wherein preparing the processing relationship definitions comprises:

creating a highest level processing relationship object in a processing relationship structure, wherein the highest level processing relationship object represents an FSO; and

creating a plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure, wherein the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure are descendents of the highest level processing relationship object;

~~wherein processing~~ at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects, one of the lower level processing relationship objects representing a ~~company of the FSO, a business unit of the FSO,~~ a bank branch office, a regional bank, a credit card issuer, or an acquirer;

processing the relationship definitions; and  
storing each processing relationship definition in the database.

25. (Currently amended): The system of claim 24, wherein each processing relationship definition stored in the database is configured for use in preparing a processing relationship value from a Financial Services Organization (FSO) transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

26. (Original): The system of claim 25, wherein the processing relationship value is configured for use in identifying an FSO business entity as an owner of the FSO transaction-related data.

27. (Currently amended): The system of claim 26, wherein the processing relationship value is configured for use in identifying an FSO business entity as an owner of the FSO transaction-related data, wherein the FSO business entity is ~~a company or a business unit or a bank branch office or a regional bank or a credit card line or an issuer or an acquirer.~~

28. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the selecting one or more processing relationship object representations is performed by a user of the FSO computer system.

29. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the selecting one or more processing relationship object representations is programmable or executable by an expert system.

30. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the storing the processing relationship definition in the database comprises transferring the processing relationship definition to a report record definition stored in the database.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended): The system of claim ~~24~~<sup>31</sup>, wherein the processing relationship structure is expanded by inserting one or more processing relationship objects as descendents of the highest level processing relationship object.

33. (Currently amended): The system of claim ~~24~~<sup>31</sup>, wherein the processing relationship structure is edited by inserting or deleting one or more processing relationship objects.

34. (Previously presented): The system of claim 24, wherein the displaying one or more processing relationship object representations on a display screen comprises displaying values associated with a sequence number for at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects and a level number for the at least one lower level processing relationship object, wherein the level number identifies a level in the processing relationship structure.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the displaying one or more processing relationship object representations on a display screen comprises displaying values associated with an object name, an object description and an object number for a displayed processing relationship object.

37. (Original): The system of claim 36, wherein the object name identifies a unique name assigned to an object.

38. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the database is relational or object oriented.

39. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the selecting a first processing relationship object representation from one or more processing relationship object representations comprises positioning a cursor of an user input device above the first processing relationship object representation and clicking a button of the user input device.

40. (Currently amended): The system of claim 24, wherein the preparing a processing relationship definition comprises creating or editing an object associated with each of the selected processing relationship object representations.

41. (Currently amended): The system of claim 40, wherein the creating the object comprises ~~identifying a unique object identifier and~~ identifying one or more values for the object ~~and one or more~~ properties.

42. (Currently amended): The system of claim 24, wherein the preparing a processing relationship definition comprises identifying ~~one or more methods and~~ one or more properties of an object associated with each of the selected processing relationship object representations.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the processing relationship object representations comprises an icon displayed on the display screen of the FSO computer system.

45. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein a user of the FSO computer system executes a processing relationship configuration program to prepare the processing relationship definition.

46. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the user of FSO computer system executes a processing relationship configuration program to reconfigure and store in the database the



processing relationship definition in response to changing business conditions.

47. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the computer system comprises a display device coupled to the computer system to display data.

48. (Original): The system of claim 47, wherein the display device is a display screen.

49. (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the computer system comprises a user input device coupled to the computer system to enter data.

50. (Original): The system of claim 49, wherein the user input device is a mouse or a keyboard.

51. (Currently amended): A ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer system to implement:

displaying at least two processing relationship object representations on a display screen in data communication with a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system comprising a database;

selecting at least two processing relationship object representations from the displayed processing relationship object representations;

preparing a processing relationship definition for each of the selected one or more processing relationship object representations, wherein preparing the processing relationship definitions comprises:

creating a highest level processing relationship object in a processing relationship structure, wherein the highest level processing relationship object represents an FSO; and

creating a plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing

relationship structure, wherein the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects in the processing relationship structure are descendents of the highest level processing relationship object;

~~wherein processing~~ at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects, one of the lower level processing relationship objects representing a ~~company of the FSO, a business unit of the FSO,~~ a bank branch office, a regional bank, a credit card issuer, or an acquirer;

processing the relationship definitions;

and

storing each processing relationship definition in the database.

52. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein each processing relationship definition stored in the database is configured for use in preparing a processing relationship value from a Financial Services Organization (FSO) transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

53. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the processing relationship value is configured for use in identifying an FSO business entity as an owner of the FSO transaction-related data.

54. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the processing relationship value is configured for use in identifying an FSO business entity as an owner of the FSO transaction-related data, wherein the FSO business entity is ~~a company or a business unit or~~ a bank branch office or a regional bank or a credit card line or an issuer or an acquirer.

55. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the selecting one or more processing relationship object representations is performed by a user of the FSO computer system.

56. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the selecting one or more processing relationship object representations is programmable or executable by an expert system.

57. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the storing the processing relationship definition in the database comprises transferring the processing relationship definition to a report record definition stored in the database.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim ~~51~~58, wherein the processing relationship structure is expanded by inserting one or more processing relationship objects as descendents of the highest level processing relationship object.

60. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim ~~51~~58, wherein the processing relationship structure is edited by inserting or deleting one or more processing relationship objects.

61. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the displaying one or more processing relationship object representations on a display screen comprises displaying values associated with a sequence number for at least one of the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects and a level number for the at least one lower level processing relationship object, wherein the level number identifies a level in the processing

relationship structure.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the displaying one or more processing relationship object representations on a display screen comprises displaying values associated with an object name, an object description and an object number for a displayed processing relationship object.

64. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 63, wherein the object name identifies a unique name assigned to an object.

65. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the database is relational or object oriented.

66. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the selecting a first processing relationship object representation from one or more processing relationship object representations comprises positioning a cursor of an user input device above the first processing relationship object representation and clicking a button of the user input device.

67. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the preparing a processing relationship definition comprises creating or editing an object associated with each of the selected processing relationship object representations.

68. (Currently amended): The carrier medium of claim 67, wherein the creating the object comprises ~~identifying a unique object identifier and~~ identifying one or more values ~~for the object~~

and one or more properties.

69. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the preparing a processing relationship definition comprises identifying ~~one or more methods and~~ one or more properties of an object associated with each of the selected processing relationship object representations.

70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the processing relationship object representations comprises an icon displayed on the display screen of the FSO computer system.

72. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein a user of the FSO computer system executes a processing relationship configuration program to prepare the processing relationship definition.

73. (Currently amended): The ~~earlier~~ computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the user of FSO computer system executes a processing relationship configuration program to reconfigure and store in the database the processing relationship definition in response to changing business conditions.

74-146 (Canceled)

147. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of lower level processing relationship objects comprises a credit card issuer object representing a credit card

issuer and an acquirer object representing an acquirer, and wherein each of the credit card issuer object and the acquirer object has one or more descendent processing relationship objects.

148. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more descendent processing relationship objects is a descendent of at least two precedent processing relationship objects, and wherein the at least two precedent processing relationship objects are at the same level in the processing relationship structure.

149. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more descendent processing relationship objects represents a credit card issuer or an acquirer~~business unit of the FSO~~.

150. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more descendent processing relationship objects represents a bank branch.

151. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the at least two processing relationship object representations comprises displaying a row for each of at least two processing relationship objects, wherein each of the rows comprises an object identifier and a level number, wherein the descendants of each object appear directly below that object.

152. (Previously presented): The method of claim 151, wherein the processing relationship structure is expanded by inserting one or more rows until a processing relationship structure has been fully defined.